

IDF officer killed by Hizbullah suicide bomber

AN IDF officer, Capt. Salah Zeidan, 23, from Beit Jann, was killed and a Defense Ministry worker was wounded yesterday when a Hizbullah suicide bomber hurled himself at an IDF convoy two kilometers from the Metulla border crossing in the security zone.

necessary conclusions," he said while visiting soldiers wounded in previous attacks in south Lebanon at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Col. Akel Hashem. According to reports from Lebanon, Hizbullah planted the bomb on the roof of a building used by SLA security officers and the Lebanese gendarmerie.

Reports from the area said the soldiers in the convoy had seen a man standing by the side of the road and became suspicious. They reportedly stopped and cocked their weapons, aiming them at the man, who then raced at the jeep and blew himself up.

Zeidan, of the Golani Brigade, traveling in a truck behind the jeep, was killed and the driver, an Israeli civilian employed by the Defense Ministry, was wounded in the face.

side bomb exploded, killing one of the soldiers. Ya'acov Gil, 25, from Safed, the Israeli civilian wounded in the suicide bomb attack, was evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.



This jeep carrying Col. K. was the apparent target of yesterday's Hizbullah suicide bomber in southern Lebanon. (Haim Azulai/Courtesy of Ma'ariv)

Attacks show Syria's not serious about peace

HIZBULLAH'S third major attack in recent days shows the Israel-Syria peace process is deceased and serious international co-operation against terrorism is not yet born.

COMMENT BARRY RUBIN

the last 18 months and Hizbullah's continued attacks have convinced Israeli leaders that Assad is not ready for peace. Either Damascus views such a step as against its interests or mistakenly thinks stubbornness will gain more Israeli concessions.

Clinton to Peres: Defense treaty is premature

A DEFENSE treaty between Israel and the US would be "premature" at this time, President Bill Clinton informed Prime Minister Shimon Peres last week, Israeli officials say.

DAVID MAKOVSKY Syria, but in the absence of such a deal, sources fear a bilateral defense treaty could compromise Washington's role as an honest broker in the moribund negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem.

(MOU), an executive agreement not requiring congressional approval. While some have sought to dub this a US-Israel "defense pact," such a title is misleading, since what is envisioned is not a treaty.

A-G orders criminal probe of Segev

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair yesterday ordered the police to begin a criminal investigation against Energy Ministry Gonen Segev on suspicion of violating party registration law.

EVELYN GORDON Neuman registered about 25 new members. In each case, the member paid his NIS 20 fee by check, and Neuman then gave him NIS 20 in cash in exchange.

Later, Neuman apparently had second thoughts and agreed to help Ma'ariv investigate the affair. He secretly taped a number of conversations between himself and Segev, Goldman, and Pomerantz, and also provided the paper with some of the relevant documents. All four are to be investigated.

The second son to fall

GOLANI company commander Cpt. Salah Zeidan, 23, of Beit Jann, was his parents' second son to fall in the line of duty. His brother, Fuad, was killed by a stray bullet in Bethlehem in 1987.

sory service and go on to study, but he liked being an officer and signed on for the regular army," said his father. "He had no fears about serving in southern Lebanon and would always tell us not to worry."

Israel not expected to repeat Operation Accountability

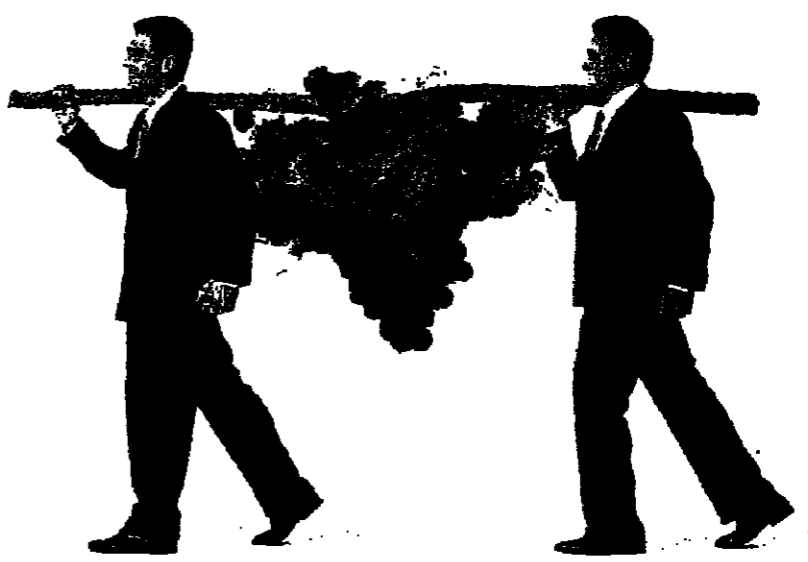
ISRAEL will not initiate another Operation Accountability-style aerial bombardment of southern Lebanon at this time, but it "will not preclude a proportional response" to Hizbullah attacks, a top aide to Prime Minister Shimon Peres said last night.

DAVID MAKOVSKY and DAVID RUDGE

after the attack, Peres declared, "We will judge the situation based upon the reality on the ground. We won't rely on promises or papers, but we'll see how things are developing and will act accordingly."

According to US-brokered rules reached in the aftermath of Operation Accountability in August 1993, the only illegitimate attacks are those on Israeli civilians in northern towns or those against Lebanese civilians north of the security zone.

Peres denied that US pressure is holding Israel from acting. The US State Department, however, said it was urging restraint by Israel, Lebanon, and Syria following the attack.



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# TRAVELER

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996

## PEAK ACCESS

### Experiencing the Canadian Rockies

By David Gonzales

Universal Press Syndicate

In the midst of the Canadian Rockies is one of the most lavishly appointed outhouses in North America. Throw rugs adorn its floor; maps and posters paper the ceiling and walls; a battery-powered lamp hangs over the seat; shelves on both sides of the door are stacked with magazines and "You are in Bear Country" pamphlets. There's even a guest book. Past patrons have filled it with plaudits, some in verse, for the outhouse's amenities and scenic location beside the Sunwapta River.

Where else in the world you could peek out a lavatory door at

mountains and a milky-blue river while reciting, in regal luxury, mildly scatological odes composed by your predecessors?

In Canada, the Rockies are not the broad, hulking beasts that they are in the United States. Instead, the mountains are sharp and densely arrayed, as if Alberta was the resting place of a huge, primordial predator, its jaws stretched open to each horizon and resplendent with row upon row of needle-like teeth.

Wedged among many peaks are glaciers—cracked tongues of ice drooping from ledges and canyons. In Jasper, Banff and Yoho, any flat ground—in forested valleys or at the shores of lakes—is at a premium.

Nevertheless, these three Canadian parks have made room for hostels while their American counterparts have not. Besides campgrounds, there are no basic, cheap accommodations within the national parks in Montana, Wyoming or Colorado, the heart of the American Rockies. Sleeping in a bed in Glacier, Yellowstone or

Rocky Mountain national parks will cost you dearly.

In Jasper, Banff and Yoho, however, visitors can drive from one hostel to another, using the bunkhouses, kitchens, saunas and nearby hiking trails to gain a more intimate—and comfortable—acquaintance with the Rocky Mountains, North America's backbone, than can be gained anywhere else.

Of course, comfort is relative, as I am reminded when checking in to the Maligne Canyon Hostel, my first stop in a week-and-a-half long trek through the Canadian Rockies. My bed, in one of the cabins is clustered around a cookhouse, wedged between and under other shelves, each laden with an exhausted and aromatic hiker. The tiny room has the ambience of an airless pantry piled with decaying vegetables.

I've arrived during the summer solstice, when daylight stretches until 11:30 p.m. and there are rewards to putting off bedtime until

the last possible hour. As twilight creeps toward midnight, I cross the road to Maligne Canyon itself, a 150-foot-deep limestone defile carved by a glacial river, which growls and echoes far below. Eventually, darkness falls, and I must return to the bunkhouse.

People come to Jasper to hike. As a guest at Maligne Canyon Hostel, you can't overnight any closer to Maligne Lake, the terminus for some of Jasper's most scenic trails. The Bald Hills trail, for example, climbs 1,575 feet to expansive vistas of Maligne Lake's cerulean surface and the Queen Elizabeth Range, bristling with glacier-streaked pinnacles.

But even these mountains lack the grandeur of 11,030-foot-high Mount Edith Cavell, the park's loftiest peak. In the shadow of this behemoth, named for a heroic British nurse executed by the German Army in World War I, is the Mount Edith Cavell Hostel, which lies at the end of a steep, tortuous road.

Because the Mount Cavell hostel is the most isolated one in the Rockies, and because its guests are spared such trivialities as indoor plumbing and running water, they enjoy as visceral a wilderness experience as can be attained without actually sleeping on the ground.

With its high, remote location, the Mount Edith Cavell hostel has superlative hiking right from its front door. Nearby is Angel Glacier, with a broad upper basin and narrow waist of bluish snow giving it the appearance of a huge, supernatural creature with outstretched wings. In less than an hour, a hosteler can hike to the feet of this soaring glacier and be wrapped in worshipful silence, broken only by an occasional rattle of spindrift streaming from the angel's wingtips.

After my long hikes at Maligne Lake and Mount Edith Cavell, it's time to reacquaint myself with the stuff that streams from a showerhead, which I do at the Whistler's Mountain Hostel, just outside of the town of Jasper. The 70-bunk hostel is well-appointed, but I shrink from its bustle and do not stay the night. Instead, I head south on the Icefields Parkway, the famed route winding through the Rockies, to the tiny Beauty Creek Hostel and its incomparable *loo*.

Because of its location on a 30-mile-stretch of empty parkway, the Beauty Creek Hostel appeals to tired bicycle tourists, some of whom might otherwise blanch at its rustic, almost makeshift character.

"It's amazing how good it looks to them when it's pouring rain and they pull up on their bikes," says Laurel Jaques, 26, one of the hostel's caretakers.

Apparently, the lives of Laurel and her partner Victoria Stone, also 26, involve little more than cozy campfires at night, long hikes to nearby Stanley Falls during the day, a bit of cleaning, a bit of paperwork and many contented mornings spent sipping coffee and gazing at the Sunwapta's rolling waters. Indoor plumbing would be superfluous at Beauty Creek. The caretakers and guests have the famous outhouse and a watering-can-shower, its plywood walls open at one end to a view of towering Mount Kitchener.

I steer my car west to Yoho National Park for a three-day backpacking trip along its famous Icefield Trail, which skirts a series of glaciers crumbling below 9,000-foot peaks. After my trek, I stop at Yoho's only hostel for a shower and a look around.



Right: Elk at breakfast greet early-rising hostelers in the Canadian Rockies.

Below: The scenery is free at Lake Louise, Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies.



Photos by David Gonzales

Continued on page 4





# Canada

The meal is a river-water stew of caribou and locally-grown potatoes, along with the heavy native bread staple, bannock. Bannock traditionally calls for heaps of fatty butter or lard, and while deadly, it certainly is satisfyingly rich.

For the really hungry among us, there was even fried Spam. We washed it all down with cups of strong tea, and found ways to connect—and laugh—across all our differences. We heard tales of canoeists who didn't make it through all the rough-water spots and had long, scary, hungry walks before reaching safety.

The humor in this and other stories was gentle, expressed by people who are overcoming cultural reserve to invite big city strangers into their homes and lives. They believe tourism can help their community become self-sufficient and culturally strong.

Life in Webeque—and all the isolated communities of the North—is not easy. In addition to rough weather and endemic poverty, tradition is retreating under the assault of the dominant culture. Elders of these communities see the young losing their identity, and they worry.

Webeque has chosen to turn tourism to its own advantage. The hope is these visitors will generate more than much-needed income. Village elders believe limited tourism also can provide a necessary cultural focus.

People here are seeing tourism as a two-fold benefit, explained Bill Rogoza, who works for the Nishnawabeh-Aski Nation an organization of native bands.

It not only provides a means of self-sufficiency, it will help maintain the culture of these people. It gives the youth of the community a means of reconnecting with the land.

The idea is that the people coming here to see the sights, breathe the clean air and learn a little about native tradition will give the young of the community reasons to learn and appreciate their own traditions. Taking pride in their heritage can provide direct, immediate economic benefit. By keeping the number of tourists small, Rogoza says, there is opportunity for real exchange among peoples of different cultures.

In areas where travel to the outposts of much of the world raises serious safety concerns, one very comfortable aspect of this trip was how safe it all felt. I knew I was very far from home, yet in the company of our hosts, yet I felt very well cared for.

So far Webeque has not found funds to build an envisioned small hotel. For the foreseeable future guests will be lodged in the vacant four-bedroom duplex used during the school year by visiting grammar school teachers. It has all the necessary comforts—including a washer and dryer and even cable TV.

Meals are served in a native home. Our host was Alfred Mekanak. If you ask him, Alfred may just pull out his fiddle and play one or two of the country tunes

## Heading North? Try Ontario

The six-day Homeland Tour to Webeque and Hudson Bay is available in August only. Reservations are very limited. Now is the time to make plans.

The trip begins with two days in Thunder Bay, Ontario, which is accessible via Northwest Airlines. A highlight is the contact-creating visit to Old Fort William, a very well done, hands-on recreation of an 1815 North West Company fur trading outpost on the Kaministiquia River. If you can arrange your visit to coincide with the annual mid-August Ojibwa festival at Old Fort William, so much the better. The displays of native skills, crafts and costumes will help pave the way for the journey north.

Flights to Webeque are via Bearskin Airlines. Because the weather in northern Ontario is unpredictable, tour organizers ask guests to allow a seventh day in their schedules as a cushion against getting stuck at any point along the tour.

Each departure requires a minimum of six passengers. The cost per person, double occupancy, is about \$2,700 plus airport departure taxes. For information, call Jack Rezy of Moccasin Trails Tours, (001) 708/968-3474.

For information on Old Fort William and the Ojibwa festival, which occurs in mid-August, call (001) 807/577-8461. For more information on Thunder Bay's possibilities, call Bruce Hole at North of Superior Tourism, (001) 807/626-9421.

popular up north.

Certainly, there are some inconveniences that go along with this immersion into local culture. Visitors can't be too put off by the prospect of being beyond instant telephone service or using an outhouse at the river camp. And eating the high-fat local fare will make your cholesterol level jump significantly.

But for this visitor, the trip to Webeque was a winner because it showed how much these people are willing to extend themselves to make strangers feel at home.

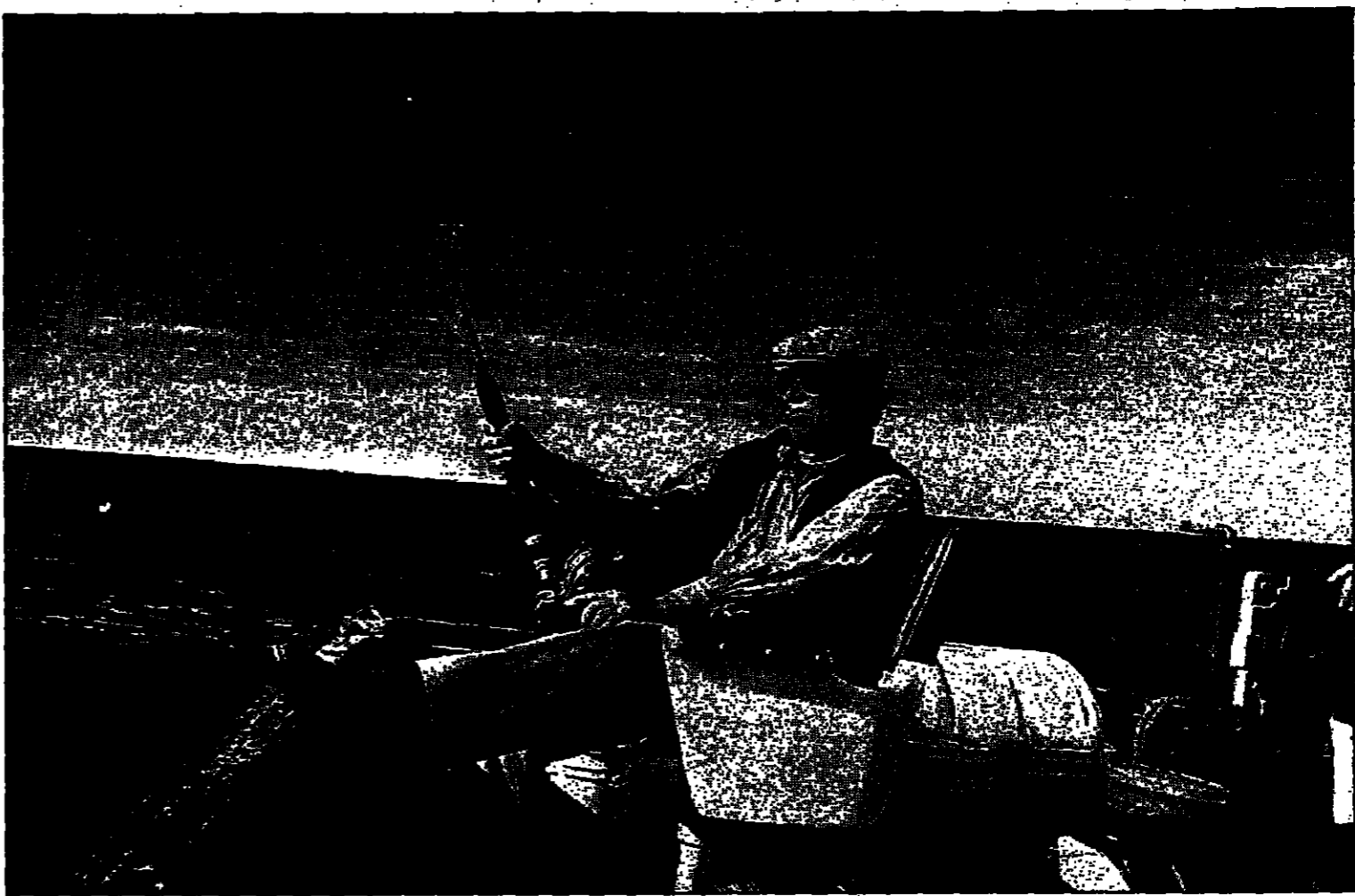


Photo by Jack Hafferkamp

Shark fishing is part of the effort to boost tourism in the economically struggling Mes de la Madeleine in Quebec.

# SEA-FARING QUEBEC'S ISLAND PARADISE

By Jack Hafferkamp

**ILES DE LA MADELEINE, Quebec—Antoine** Poirier did everything he could to make it easy for us to catch a very large shark.

He let us sleep in until 7 a.m. (instead of the originally scheduled 4:30 a.m.).

He took his 35-foot fishing boat, the Joy Earl, to three separate locations. He used his sonar. He trailed a big bucket of beef blood behind his boat as an attractant. He even beat rhythm on the boat hull with a hammer.

"It gets their attention," he said, waving his omnipresent nicotine-reducing cigarette holder.

After nine hours, and in the face of gray skies and 5-foot swells, Poirier tried to talk us into staying out a while longer. When he takes his customers out to catch mako and blue shark, he expects to bag at least one. It's a matter of pride.

I confess that, at the end, I didn't care very much. At 20 miles out to sea, and the only one still on deck in the spray and rain, I was so pleased to get past being seasick that catching anything was secondary. I certainly didn't need to fight a 400-pound mackerel-munching machine to convince me that the Iles de la Madeleine are a great place to visit. I was already convinced.

If you find the seashore restoring, you can't help but love this half-moon shaped archipelago of a half-dozen wind-swept, most French-speaking islands dropped into the Gulf of the St. Lawrence due west of the southern end of Newfoundland.

This is a May to September vacation paradise: Lots to do outdoors in a beautiful, inviting, far-away-yet-familiar place where the climate is temperate, the locals are easy to get along with and there is a good bar for a late afternoon cocktail and camaraderie.

The islands and their villages are connected by sand dunes and a road stretching 40 scenic miles. Coming here early or late in season is like having a beach all to yourself: great air, the surf and an endless shoreline loop. You can windsurf, bike, hike, swim, sea kayak, bird-watch, drink, even go fishing for mako with Antoine Poirier.

The Madeleines—or Magdeles as they are known in English—are part of Quebec. The islands are a largely unknown vacation destination in the United States. One result of their influence is that the quality of the dining here is stunning. My accommodation, the Auberge de l'Islet, is a modest motel, but the once-per-month Saturday dinner I happened in on was an exquisite 11-course affair. "It was so wonderful that after a nine-hour day at sea in a vain shark hunt, I was willing to sit for five hours to take it all in."

Island culture is Acadian, making these people cousins to Louisiana's Cajons.

Many came here in the 1750s to avoid being deported by the British during the French and Indian Wars, and they endured 150 years of essentially feudal domination and isolation from mainland culture.

Antoine Poirier says that his family home got electricity for the first time in the 1960s.

One result of the isolation was that these islands developed their own distinctive maritime way of life, with fishing at its commercial center. Today, fishing is still the main industry, and its importance is commemorated in Roger Langevin's sculpture, "Les Pecheurs in L'Etang-du-Nord."

But the fishing is not what it used to be. Mackerel may still be plentiful, but ocean perch, flounder and cod, fish that sustained these communities for two centuries, have been overfished. Poirier blames their decline on the big factory ships of Russia and Japan that plundered fish by the ton in great dragnets. He says that commercial cod fishing has been banned in these waters since 1982.

Decline of the deep-water fish species has meant increased reliance on other species, particularly lobster, snow crab and scallops. Since the mid-1980s, islanders have begun farming blue mussels in their lagoons, but economically this does not make up for the loss of both fish and seal hunting. Seals dried up as a market in the 1980s, after worldwide media focused on the bloody excesses of baby seal hunting.

For the 14,000 people who live on Les Isles de la Madeleine, tourism has had to take up the economic slack. To make a decent living today, a fisherman has to live by his wits. I came here as a guest of Quebec

Tourism to check it out firsthand.

That's where Antoine Poirier comes in. He is the first and only licensed shark fisherman in these waters. He has won a Canadian tourism award for coming up with the idea. He is also the president of the islands' seal hunters association. And it turns out he has written a book from the hunters' point of view. Poirier sees hunting seals in terms of an ecological balance, which is now wobbling badly. He compares it to thinning an over-populated deer herd.

"Last year, there were 800,000 baby seals born around here," he says, gesturing with his cigarette holder. "Two hundred thousand will die because they are too weak. There isn't enough to eat for them to develop the fat they need for surviving winter." Why not? Because seals eat cod, too. And since there are no cod, seals have turned to eating what the cod ate, thus cutting cod out of the food chain, and guaranteeing that they won't come back.

This scenario, Poirier says, inevitably will lead to an implosion in the seal population after they have devoured everything in sight.

Jack Hafferkamp is a Chicago-based freelance writer.



Photo by Jack Hafferkamp

Native children are both curious and excited by visitors.

## TRAVELER

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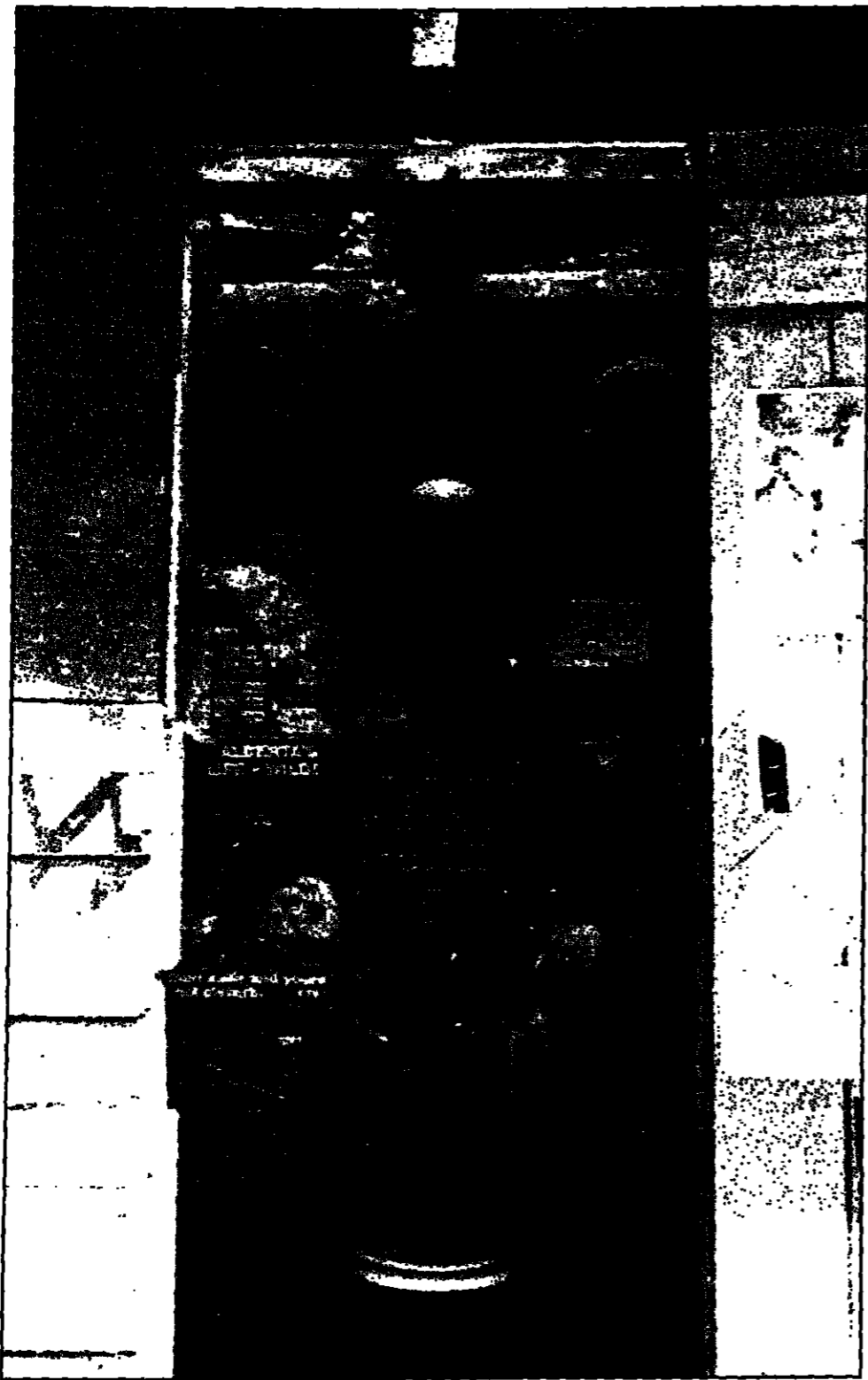
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One of the most lavishly appointed outhouses in North America awaits visitors at Jasper's Beauty Creek Hostel.

## Hostels Provide Affordable Nights

The price of a hostel stay is ridiculously low. With a membership in Hostelling International, anybody can stay at the Beauty Creek Hostel or any of the other 11 hostels scattered across Jasper, Banff and Yoho National Parks, the three most renowned preserves in the Canadian Rockies along the Alberta-British Columbia border.

Hostelling International is the new moniker adopted by the International Youth Hostel Federation, an umbrella organization of 5,000 hostels around the world. For \$25 per year, members, who may be of any age, have access to every HI establishment on the globe and are given a guidebook that lists HI hostels in Canada and the United States.

A hostel, for those unfamiliar with the concept, commonly consists of two or more bunkrooms, a common living area and a cook-it-yourself kitchen. Instead of banishing guests to separate rooms, hotel-style, a hostel's communal nature brings travelers together and, more important, keeps accommodation prices within reach of skimpy travel budgets. Even the most expensive hostel in the Canadian Rockies, the Lake Louise International Hostel, charges about \$15 per night, though its amenities rival those of a posh mountain chalet.

### THE HOSTEL EXPERIENCE

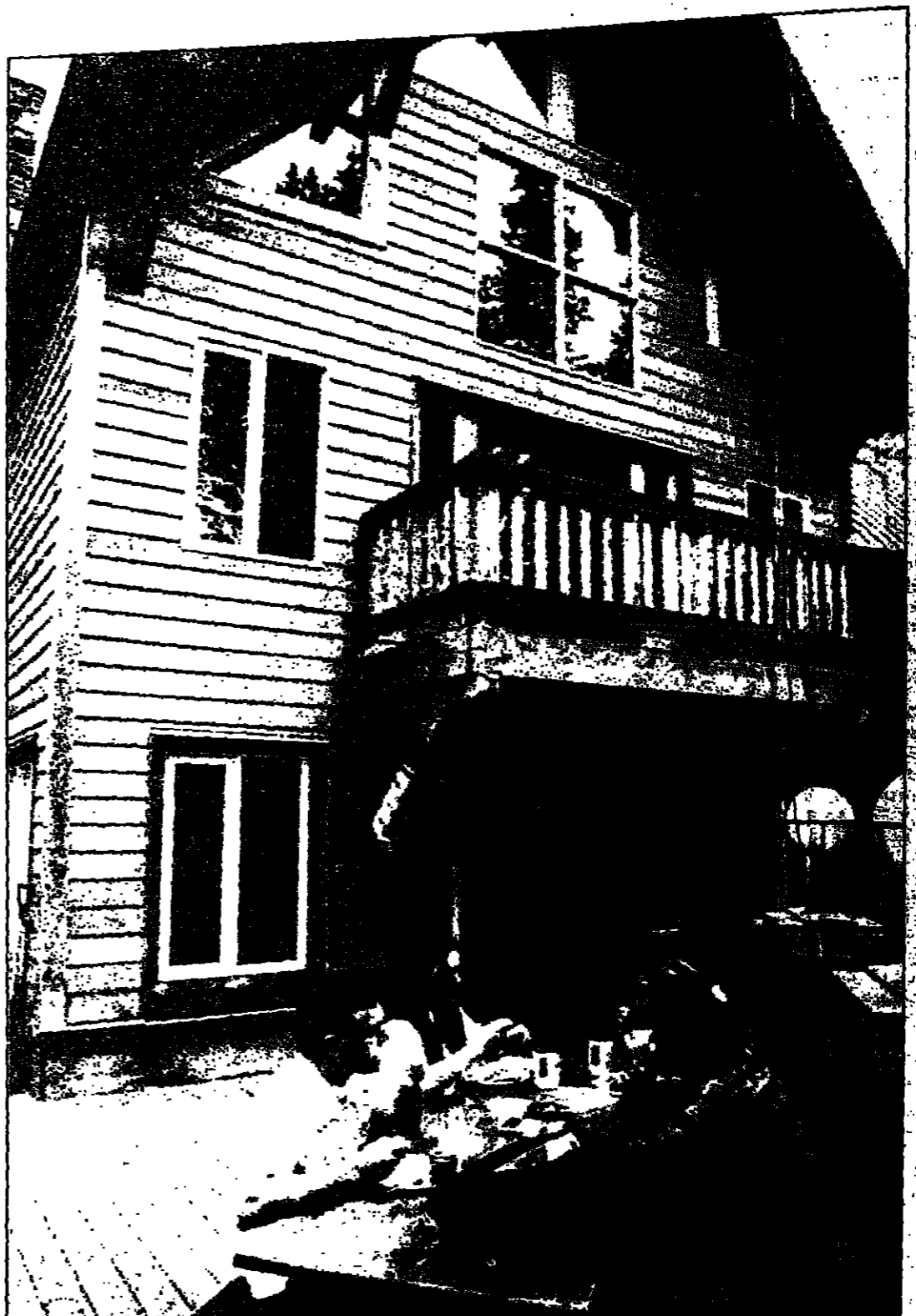
Requiring hostellers to do a daily chore is a cornerstone of the hostelling philosophy, though many hostels have lately dropped the practice. But rustic hostels such as those at Maligne Canyon and Beauty Creek, which lack running water and plumbing, would soon become uninhabitable if guests did not do some of the dirty work.

Few hostellers complain, however, about sweeping out log cabins, fetching water from tumbling streams or depositing trash in elaborate bear-proof containers. These are the sorts of chores depicted in outdoor clothing catalogs, and you look and feel cool doing them, especially if you're wearing a flannel shirt.

Earplugs, however, would be appropriate at bedtime. As sometimes happens in a hostel bunkroom, vociferous snores may keep you awake.

Low prices and the prospect of sequestering oneself in Beauty Creek's hostel may be enticing enough, but there is an even better reason to visit Alberta's hostels: They offer unequal access to the Rocky Mountains.

David Gonzales is a Breckenridge, Colorado-based writer.



Lake Louise International Hostel provides comfortable accommodations for visitors.

Photos by David Gonzales

### Access From page 1

The Whiskey Jack Hostel is tucked into a narrow valley, home of the Canadian Rockies' highest waterfall, Takakkaw Falls, which ricochets off a ledge halfway down its length, sending up a deep-throated roar.

In winter, however, it is snow that tumbles from the valley's heights, and in the midst of summer, a construction crew labors to fortify the building's foundation in anticipation of avalanches. Not surprisingly, Whiskey Jack is the only Canadian Rockies hostel closed in the winter.

After my long, grimy trek, I crave a little luxury and proceed to Banff National Park and the Lake Louise International Hostel, which is run jointly by Hostelling International and the Alpine Club of Canada. Apparently, Alpine Club members need more comfort than can be provided by former POW cabins, and their partnership with HI has resulted in a facility more similar to Chateau Lake Louise than to a hostel.

The hostel is enormously popular and all 105 beds are taken for the night. I have to appease myself with lunch in the hostel's sunny, wood-paneled Peyto's Cafe—which serves vegetarian burgers, salads and other healthy fare—and a stroll. The hostel's upper level oozes clubbiness with its stone fireplace, overstuffed chairs and handsome library.

Alternate accommodations at the Castle Mountain Hostel seem a fine compromise between the simplicity of Beauty Creek and the more elegant Lake Louise hostel. The hostel has running water, but I don't feel obligated to don tweeds during dinner.

At dawn the next morning, I wake to the soft crunching of pine needles and peer out the window at an elk stepping lightly among the trees. He stares back at me, his velvet jaw grinding a mouthful of grass, then resumes his meal. Slipping outside, I creep a few yards toward him to snap a photo, my senses rousing quickly to the cold needles under bare feet, the sharp, clean smell of the forest and the sight of this imperious animal who has decided to tolerate my presence while he breakfasts.

Elk are a common sight in the Canadian Rockies, but I doubt that many visitors staying in expensive lodges or chateaus have seen elk in similar circumstances one-on-one in the pale glow of dawn. Such are the experiences that memorable vacations are made of, and such are the experiences that the hostels of Jasper, Banff and Yoho routinely offer. It seems ludicrous that a visitor would actually choose to pay hundreds of dollars, instead of 10, for a bed.

David Gonzales is a Breckenridge, Colorado-based writer.

## IF YOU GO

Hostelling International memberships are available at any regional HI office; to find the nearest one, contact Hostelling International—American Youth Hostels, Suite 840, 733 15th Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20005; (001)202/783-6161.

Adult memberships are \$25 per year; Youth (under 18) memberships are \$10 per year; senior citizen memberships are \$15 per year; family memberships are \$35; lifetime memberships cost \$250.

A bunk in one of Alberta's hostels costs approximately \$8 to \$15 per night. Many hostels are open to non-members who pay a higher price. Contact Hostelling International—Southern Alberta, No. 203, 141A Kensington Road N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 3P9; (001) 403/283-5551; fax (001) 403/283-6503; for more information on prices, locations and reservations, which are advisable throughout the summer.

More information on Canada's national parks is available from Parks Canada, 220 4th Avenue Southeast, P.O. Box 2869, Station M, Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H8; (001) 403/292-4401.

# SNAPSHOT

## Photographing Baby Seals

By Carl and Ann Purcell

Copley News Service

In March, a vast number of harp seals will be born on Magdalen Island, Canada. For 12 days, the pups will be snow white, with great dark eyes and a black nose. The wind whistling across the ice makes the pups look as if they are weeping huge tears. Seal pups will also suddenly appear at this time with great frequency on Alaskan glaciers and ice bergs. 'Tis the season for babies, at least in the seal world!

These roly-poly youngsters are grand photographic subjects. They are fearless models and, if you use the program mode on your camera, you can get picture perfect results with nearly each frame. The logistics of getting to the pictures safely, however, are a little more complicated. You will be working in an environment where

the wind chill factor can lower the temperature to 70 below zero on a sunny day.

When you are packing for a trek to visit the seal babies, you should think in terms of layers. Long underwear, several layers of socks, several pairs of gloves and lots of clothing in between. Natural fibers will allow your body to breathe, so buy silk or cotton and leave nylon and polyester at home. It is dangerous if your clothes become damp with perspiration at these low temperatures.

Most tour group operators who conduct the trips onto the floes will provide rubber-canvas survival suits and special arctic boots to go over all your other clothes, but you should check to make sure that they will be available. You will need especially good head gear to keep the top of your head and your ears warm. You will also need a scarf or neck ring to pull over your nose and mouth to warm the air you breathe.

Think carefully about your equipment needs and keep it to an absolute minimum. Remember that you will be heavily burdened with your clothing. You'll need your hands free because you will have to carry a pole to check the ground ahead of you as any mis-

step into a "blow hole" hidden by snow could be disastrous.

Batteries don't work well in temperature colder than the freezing point. Your camera bodies and extra batteries should be kept inside your coat to take advantage of your body heat. Bring them out only when you are actually taking pictures. Going from cold to hot may form condensation on your lenses, so keep an eye on them and wait until the condensation disappears before snapping the shot.

And finally, keep an eye on the mother seals. You do not want to get into a tangle with a protective mammal that outweighs you by several hundred pounds. While seals are usually docile subjects, they are nevertheless wild animals and should be treated with respect. Come home with wonderful baby seal photos but, above all, come home safely.

Carl and Ann Purcell are America's leading travel writing/photography team.



A baby harp seal on Magdalen Island, Canada, poses for a photograph.

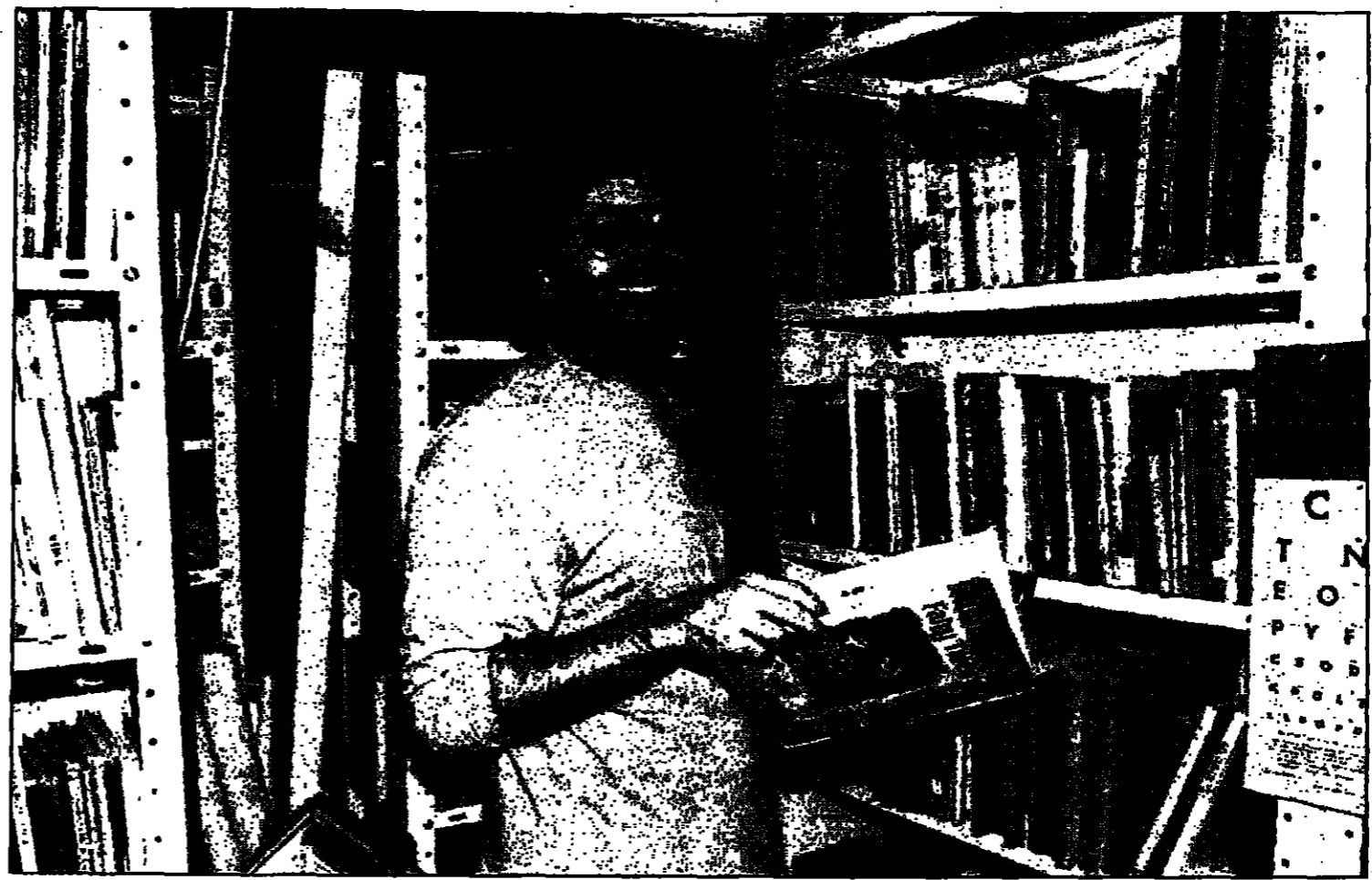
Photo by Ann and Carl Purcell

# The detective of the People of the Book

If it's been published, Tel Aviv's book sleuth will find it, Greer Fay Cashman writes

WHEN Itamar Levy started his business in August 1993, the idea was "to have a bookstore without a store and without books." Levy, who wanted to operate with a minimum of overheads, figured that people would just call his number, tell him what book they wanted, and he would go look for it. But like so many other best laid plans of mice and men, this too went astray. It wasn't that people didn't call - they did. But they didn't all want to buy books. Many had books to sell, and even more had books to give away. All they wanted was that Levy should take them off their hands.

Levy, 40, who loves to read, and who is himself a writer with four novels to his credit, had already acquired considerable experience in finding not easily available books. All his novels relied heavily on factual research, and Levy often went looking for books in out-of-the-way places. Friends would see the rare editions at his home and would ask whether he could procure a copy for them too. As the requests increased, Levy began to realize that despite the attractions of television and videotapes, the people of Israel had to a large extent remained the people of the book. They liked to read and they liked to acquire books. But Levy remained stubbornly addicted to children's books. And indeed that is still his area of specialization, but requests came in for so many other things that he could not help but branch out. "There's no such thing as a typical request," he says. "People have individual tastes and look for some of the strangest things imaginable."



Itamar Levy: Most of the time I know what people are asking for before they complete the sentence.

One only has to tune into Kol Yisrael's Radio 2 on Friday evenings to understand exactly what he means. Yaron Enosh, who hosts a Friday night cultural potpourri on the network, came across Levy a couple of years back when he himself was looking for a book, and decided that it might be a fun thing to run a one-time interview with him. But the station was bombarded with phone calls from listeners who thought that Levy might be able to produce the elusive vol-

umes which hadn't shown up in other stores dealing in used books. Elated by the response, Enosh invited Levy to come back on a weekly basis. Besides many callers, there are some 150 written enquiries each week, with letters coming from both Israel and abroad - including Arab countries. Amongst the latter was a missive from the Royal Hashemite Palace in Jordan. (Levy declines

to divulge details of the request, other than to hint at the identity of the royal personage who made it.) He also gets a lot of queries on the Internet. People who contact him don't always know the name of the book they're looking for. "They know the plot and they can give me a synopsis, but they can't remember the title. Often, they give me a distorted version of the title, but if I've had the request before or if I've ever come across

the book, I'll know just what they're looking for," he asserts. Modern technology is a useful tool. Every request is computerized along with a synopsis of the sought-after publication. In addition, he has computerized the synopsis of almost every children's book published in Israel during the past 40 years. It's what he calls the nostalgia of the first children of the state. "Most of the time I know what people are asking for before they

complete the sentence," Levy boasts. That doesn't necessarily mean that he can make an instant delivery. "It could take an hour, it could take a year, it could take longer," he admits. "I have to wait until someone wants to get rid of it, or a library changes stock, or someone finds it in the street. Sometimes someone will call me and say they've bought a new home and we found a thousand books here." With a success rate of only 10 percent, his track record may appear weak, but even so he observes, he has over 2,400 clients whom he has serviced at least twice. Some come every week to rummage through the shelves of his cramped premises. One of the first requests he received was for *Secrets about men that every woman should know*. Another was for *Levi Eshkol's jokes*. Someone else wanted Dante's *Divine Comedy* in Hebrew. Bi- or multi-lingual readers, when they can't get what they want in Hebrew, will often settle for another language. Several queries for *Cheaper by the Dozen* in Hebrew produced no results. When he told his clients that he could get it for them only in English, they were not the least bit disappointed, and urged him to go ahead. A collector asked him to get him the *Nero Wolf* books in all their translations. "So far, I've found Hebrew, Italian, French and German." Some of the titles he's looking for at the moment include: *Fifty years of Palestine* by Frances Newton; *History of Haifa - Mt. Carmel* by Judith Rothschild; *The History of Modern Israel Money* by Ruth Gordon. Levy may well have them right under his nose. He has 400 crates of books which he has not yet had time to open and sort out. The phone seldom stops and even this interview was conducted in over a dozen stops and starts, which included answering the phone, attending to off-the-street customers and salvaging over a 1925 Shaare Zedek calendar printed in Yiddish. Levy is closed on Thursdays and does business only between 9 and 1 during the other days of the week. The rest of the time he's out in search of a good book.

## Change the script to break sibling tensions

DEAR RUTHIE, I have a very religious sister who lives in Israel. Since my divorce seven years ago, we have seen each other only twice. I'd love to visit more, but cannot afford it. My brother-in-law has offered to help me financially (as I am a manic-depressive and have not had a real job in eight years) - but I cannot accept such a gift from someone who is not wealthy. My problem is that when my sister and I see each other, or speak on the phone, she is very sarcastic and critical. I am angry that she doesn't show me respect, and hurt that she judges me. I have always tried to "be there for her." I'd appreciate any suggestions you might have. Brother at Bay Buffalo, New York Dear B at B.

responds by curbing her tongue. Meanwhile, you must examine your own part in the sibling scenario. Consider the ways in which your behavior contributed to her disdain. Though you view yourself as completely supportive, she may feel it is she who has had to "be there" for a depressed brother who is frequently out of work. The best way to break unhealthy family dynamics is to change the script. As long as you continue to "read the same old lines," she will remain steadfast in her own role. The next time you speak to sis, hit her with some new material, and see what happens. Dear Ruthie, I am a night owl and my fiance is an early bird. We have trouble synchronizing our free time together. One of us is always too tired to enjoy what the other has planned. Will our marriage work? Lamenting Love Birds San Diego, California Dear Love Birds, This problem need not ruffle your feathers. In the first place, marriage often alters one's internal clock. This is due to various

DEAR RUTHIE RUTHIE BLUM factors - particularly adding offspring to the nest. As long as the basis for your union is sound in other respects, your marriage has as good a chance of working as any other. Dear Ruthie, I am a 69-year-old widow. When my husband died five years ago, I sold the car, as I did not think I was of the age to learn to drive. At first, friends and neighbors were helpful by offering me lifts. But then the offers stopped coming. It's unpleasant to have to ask for favors all the time, but it's expensive to take cabs, and I'm not always up to taking the bus. I accept that people are thoughtless, but these so-called friends have gone too far. I often freeze due to air conditioning in some cars; one neighbor kept the radio blasting in spite of my pleas to turn it off; another refused my request to turn on the news; another smoked; yet another used "traffic" as an excuse not to drive

via a route I requested (so as to be able to stop at the drugstore); and I'm often subjected to the back seat, which I've repeatedly said is uncomfortable. How can we educate people to be considerate of those who need their services as drivers? Driven to Distraction Somewhere in Israel Dear D to D. Consideration is a two-way street. The "thoughtlessness" of these appointed chauffeurs may be the result of your having driven them crazy with your criticism. The money you are saving by not owning a car is sufficient to cover the cost of taxi fare for a long time to come. If you rid yourself of this unnecessary dependence on others, minor discomforts and major resentment will take a "back seat" to newfound freedom. Once you begin to take responsibility for your own mobility, your spirits are likely to be uplifted. And offers for lifts even may be more forthcoming. Dear Ruthie, My best friend keeps getting

promoted at work. I want to be happy for her, and I certainly act as though I am. But deep down I'm envious as hell. How can I separate my negative feelings from my positive ones? I'm afraid that the former is beginning to get the better of the latter. Eaten with Envy, Jerusalem Dear E with E. Either you'll learn to keep envy at bay while in your friend's presence, or you'll find yourself wanting to spend less time in her company. Keep in mind that it is your sense of self which dictates how you get along with other people - regardless of the fortunes which befall them. Also, if the tables were turned, your friend undoubtedly would experience similar pangs. Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. E-mail, editors@jpost.co.il (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received).

## Technion gets into the desalination act

TOM TUGEND LOS ANGELES THE Technion and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are about to collaborate on a \$35 million project which they hope will bring the desalination of sea water a major step forward. The project to build a 5-million-gallons-a-day pilot plant to purify ocean water for human and agricultural consumption will probably be located in Huntington Beach, California. The joint US-Israel Commission for Science and Technology has agreed to put up the start money for the plant. Huntington Beach is already the site of a desalination test unit that purifies 2,000 gallons a day. The unit was built by the MWD in consultation with experts from the Technion. If and when the larger pilot plant goes on-line, the next step would be construction of a 50-million-gallons-a-day plant. It takes about 300,000 gallons to supply a household of five people with water for a year. The collaboration between engineers in Southern California and Israel comes naturally, as both areas have similar climates and desert settings, said Prof. Uri Shamir, who heads the Technion's Water Research Institute. Shamir spoke at a reception hosted by the Southern California Chapter of the American Society for Technion, which was celebrating the successful conclusion of a \$5,400,000 fund drive in support of Shamir's institute. If the technological challenges of developing adequate water supplies for arid regions are formidable, water is also one of the most complex issues in the Middle East peace negotiations. Indeed, pessimists predict that the next Middle East war will be fought over water, but Shamir, who serves on Israel's water negotiating team in the peace talks, is more upbeat. "Maybe water will lead to regional cooperation, rather than war," he said. Engineers have been working for decades to develop a relatively cheap process for desalinating sea and brackish water in commercial quantities, without scoring the hoped-for breakthrough. The main sticking point is the high energy cost required for desalination, now ranging from \$1,600 to \$3,000 per acre foot of sea water, equivalent to 326,000 gallons. By contrast, conventional water supplied to American households costs only \$300 per acre foot. However, with the rising cost of developing new conventional water sources for thirsty Southern California and Israel, and the anticipated lowering of desalination costs, purified sea water could become competitive at \$850 per acre foot, Shamir said. The Technion engineer acknowledged he had predicted in 1962 that desalinated water would be competitive by 1980. In a revised forecast, he said that "We are now much closer to success than 20 years ago. Within 10-20 years, I expect to see substantial water [desalination] factories springing up in many locations."

## Heart recipient says donor's beat goes on

WHEN Claire Sylvia woke up from a heart-and-lung transplant operation at Yale-New Haven Hospital in 1988, she was craving new and strange things - beer and chicken nuggets. She began dreaming about a young man with the initials T.L. In her sleep, she kissed him and, as their lips met, she sucked his entire body into her own. Convinced that her new organs triggered some profound change within her, Sylvia set out to discover the identity of her donor. She learned that he was an 18-year-old house painter whose names began with a T and an L. He loved cold beer and fried chicken. After hearing this eerie story, collaborator-to-the-stars William Novak tracked down Sylvia, a dance teacher in her mid-fifties, and arranged to write her life story. He also was intrigued by her work with other organ recipients who have had similar experiences. The result, tentatively called *A Change of Heart*, will be published by Little, Brown and Co. next year. "This is a mind-boggling thing to come along," says editor William Phillips, who has been with Little and Brown for 30 years. He acknowledges that on the face of it, the story strains credulity. But Phillips believes it with all his heart. "I've known Bill Novak for years," Phillips says. "He is a very sober, sophisticated guy." Novak first heard about Sylvia three years ago. Over the course of a dozen or so conversations, he determined that she had a story good enough, and long enough, to make a book. "And she's not a flake," he says. Phillips agrees, calling her "a sensible, nice woman from Queens." When Sylvia set out to find her



benefactor, Novak says, the hospital refused to help. But by cobbling together newspaper obituaries and a few other facts - he had died in a motorcycle crash - she discovered his identity and met his family. She was so overwhelmed by her experiences, Novak says, she began keeping extensive journals. Novak took her notes and wrote a book proposal, and together they sold it to Little and Brown for what Phillips describes as a "goodly sum of money." He says there has been lots of interest from

foreign publishers. "Somehow it's an idea that even the most skeptical people find believable," Phillips says. "Cellular memory has some credibility." Novak says that Sylvia's experience is not isolated. Since her operation, she has formed several support groups for other recipients who also have dreamed of their donors and dealt with their cravings. As he began to think about how the story might be told, Novak naturally turned to literature. "The first book I checked out of the library," he says, "was *Frankenstein*." (Washington Post)

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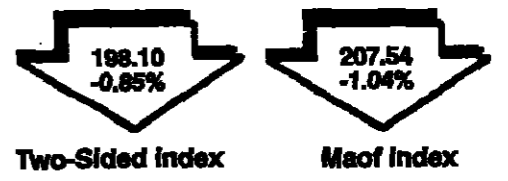
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Fear of hike in rates pushes indexes lower

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES dropped yesterday as investors expressed concern that the central bank will raise interest rates to fight inflation. This week, a report showing a steady money supply in February offset investors' concern about the government's announcement that inflation last month - 0.9 percent - exceeded analysts' expectations. Now, 'CPI estimates for March are moving toward 0.9% - matching the figure of both February and January - from previous estimates of around 0.6%, said Daniella Finn, head of sales at Betucha Securities and Investment Ltd. Driving up the estimate is the closure, which is pushing up local prices at retail. Most analyst maintain that Governor Jacob Frenkel won't raise rates when the central bank sets policy on Monday, but Finn said she wouldn't be surprised at a rise of a quarter or half percentage point. The Two-sided Index fell 0.85% to 198.10, while the Maof Index slipped 1.04% to 207.54. The most active issue on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange for a fourth consecutive day was Koor Industries Ltd., down 0.5% on NIS 4.5 million of shares traded. Also dragging down the indexes were holding company Clal Israel, off 2%, and Discount Investment, which lost 0.5%. Across the exchange, some NIS 60m. of shares traded, 15% less than the daily average of NIS 75.6m. for this month. The central bank last changed the rate at which it lends to banks on February 1, raising it 0.3 percentage points to 14%. (Bloomberg)

FTSE Index slips in late trading

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 slipped in late trading to end easier after a day dominated by economic figures. Shares traded lower through the morning session before weaker-than-expected US retail sales data prompted rallies in gilt and Treasury markets and pulled equities into positive territory in the early afternoon. The FTSE 100 ended 7.6 points lower at 3,685.4. FRANKFURT - Shares were stable at the end of trade, with the DAX Index marginally ahead on Tuesday's close, having taken the higher-than-expected February M3 money supply figures in their stride. The IBIS DAX Index closed the afternoon up 6.99 points, or 0.28 percent, at 2,491.73. Earlier the DAX Index closed lower than 7.36 points at 2,485.90 points. PARIS - Shares finished up after turning higher in the afternoon on bond strength and despite early weakness on Wall Street. Traders said buying of blue chips stocks helped support the wider market. The CAC-40 index closed up 2.59, or 0.13%, at 1,969.79. ZURICH - Shares ended little changed after several batches of economic data sent mixed signals. Stronger than anticipated German M3 growth depressed share prices early, then lower than expected U.S. retail sales pushed the bourse slightly higher. Traders said a firmer Wall Street also gave a mild boost late in the session. The broad SPI Index gained 5.36 points to end at 2,304.54. TOKYO - The stock exchange was closed due to a national holiday and will resume trade today. HONG KONG - Stocks pared sharp early losses to close modestly lower, drawing support from heavy buying of major laggard Hang Seng. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index dipped 43.97 points to 10,836.53, off an initial low of 10,779.81 hit on a correction following Tuesday's 279-point jump. Turnover fell to HK\$4.64 billion from Tuesday's adjusted HK\$4.99b. SYDNEY - The share market ended lower, drifting away in the afternoon session as the lack of leads began to tell on an indecisive market. The All Ordinaries Index closed 6.9 lower at 2,249.4. Brokers said the lower close was not really cause for concern, with a lack of leads and a Japanese market holiday ensuring the day lacked any real trend. JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended slightly weaker after drifting quietly all day, with gold stocks slipping on a softer bullion price and industrials easing on a lack of interest and an absence of fresh direction. Dealers said a public holiday today to celebrate Human Rights Day had kept many players on the sidelines. The all share index ended 12.2 points weaker at 6,633.6, industrials edged 7.6 points to 8,230.3 and the gold index fell 16.0 to 1,722.6.

Dow plunges on sell-off in technology shares

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 50 points during trading yesterday following a sell-off in technology shares, including International Business Machines, which dropped \$7 to \$114.75. At 2:19 p.m. EST, the Dow was down 50.22 points at 5,619.29, which activated the New York Stock Exchange's limits on program trading.

Until the US switches its clocks for Daylight Saving Time, the Dow Jones results published in this paper will be from 3 p.m. New York time.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF and rows for STERLING, YEN, SF, FF.

TEI AVIV STOCKS table with columns for Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading, listing various companies and their prices.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and name.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, and Change, listing various global companies.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates.

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, DJ US, NYSE, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table listing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indexes.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table listing NYSE/AMEX stocks for Israeli companies like Amig, Arad, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing rates for Pound, Franc, etc.

Libor rates

Table showing Libor rates for 3 months, 6 months, etc.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Text block providing contact information for CommStock Trading Ltd. and listing services like Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds.

INFLATION AND METALS

US commodities table listing prices for Cocoa, Sugar, Wheat, etc.

London commodities table listing prices for Brent, WTI, etc.

Spot market metals (US) table listing prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures table listing prices for Copper, Aluminum, etc.

London metal fixes table listing prices for Gold, Silver, etc.





